land reform on which successful tribal settlement will ultimately 421
depend, but as the land-owning families exercise control over the indigenous administrations, the prospects for sweeping changes do not seem bright.

Transformation of the Sheikh

With the process of sedentarization the tribal sheikh under- 166x
goes a profound political and social transformation.

In the traditional tribal society inter-tribal political 578
activities were confined to disputes over water and grazing rights. 622
Since the 19th century sheikhs have become involved in big power 664
politics. Bedouin history since the First World War abounds with cases of tribal chiefs being pre-occupied with the political issues of the country. At present the tribal leaders constitute a very active element in the parliamentary life of Syria and Iraq. While the sheikhs of the Transjordanian tribes have in the past not taken a prominent part in the political activities of their country, they have taken sides in the main controversial issue of anglophile government circles versus pan-Arab, anti-foreign Nationalists. Mithal Pasha, the sheikh of the Beni-Sakhr, was the avowed friend of the Mufti while Hamad el Jasi, the sheikh of the Howeitat was an active supporter of Abdullah. 1)

The social changes which the sheikh undergoes are consider- 622
able. His household becomes substantially enlarged by addition 178
of a great number of slaves, specialists in various tasks. The wives of the sheikh have chamber maids at their disposal.

---

1. Oppenheim, 1943, pp. 182-183